12. The Wakf Act, 1995 (43 of 1995) and Central Wakf Council.

13. The Durgah Khawaja Sahib Act, 1955 (36 of 1955).

14. Funding of programmes and projects for the welfare of minorities, including the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation.

15. Employment opportunities for minorities in the Central and State public sector undertakings, as also in the private sector.

16. Formulation of measures relating to the protection of minorities and their security in consultation with other concerned Central Ministries and State Governments.

17. National Commission for Socially and Economically Backward Sections among Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

18. All matters relating to the Justice Sachar Committee.

19. Prime Minister's new 15-Point Programme for Minorities.

20. Any other issue pertaining to the minority communities.

Aims and objectives of NMDFC

638. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and the objectives of the NMDFC;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are taking measures to strengthen and professionalise the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the NMDFC is plaguing by a slew of problems like dismal recovery of loans in many States, severe staff shortage, apart from other administrative and operational troubles; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The aims and objectives of NMDFC are enclosed as Statement *{See* below).

(b) and (c) An Expert Committee has been constituted to review the functioning of NMDFC and to suggest an action plan for improving its strategy and operational performance.

(d) and (e) NMDFC does face problems of poor recovery of loans, staff shortage, inadequate equity contributions by State Governments, reluctance of State Governments to extend adequate guarantees etc.

Statement

Details of aims and objectives of NMDFC

As per the Memorandum and Articles of Association of NMDFC, it has following aims and objectives:

1. To promote economic and developmental activities for the benefit of "Backward Sections" amongst the minorities, preference being given to the occupational groups and women;

2 To assist, subject to such income and/or economic criteria as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time, individuals or groups of individuals belonging to the minorities by way of loans and advances for economically and financially viable schemes and projects;

3. To promote self-employment and other ventures for the benefits of minorities;

4. To grant loans and advances at such rates of interest as may be determined from time to time in accordance with the guidelines or schemes prescribed by the Central Government or by the Reserve Bank of India,

5. To extend loans and advances to the eligible members belonging to the minorities for pursuing general/professional/technical education for training at graduate and higher levels;

6. To assist in the upgradation of technical and entrepreneurial skills of minorities for proper and efficient management of production units;

7. To assist the State level organizations dealing with the development of the minorities by way of providing financial assistance or equity contribution and in obtaining commercial funding or by way of refinancing.

8. To work as an apex institution for coordinating and monitoring the work of all corporations/boards/other bodies set up by the State Government/Union Territory Administrations for, or given the responsibility of assisting the minorities for their economic development; and

9. To help in furthering the Government policies and programmes for the development of minorities.

State Minorities Commissions.

639. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States which are not having State Minorities Commissions;

(b) the steps taken to get these established;

(c) whether all State Minorities Commissions are fully represented by all the five declared Minority Communities *i.e.* Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist and Parsis;

(d) whether there is any discrepancy in any State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim and Tripura.

(b) to (e) State Governments have been requested to take appropriate action in accordance with the recommendations of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) for setting up State Minorities Commissions and giving representation to the Minority Communities notified under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.